

Grad Planner

**2004
Graduation
Program**



ACHIEVE BC
EDUCATION

GRAD PLANNER: 2004 GRADUATION PROGRAM

Section 1: What You Need to Graduate 2

At a Glance	2
Required Courses	3
Elective Courses	6
Graduation Portfolio – What You Need to Know	7
Portfolio Core	7
Portfolio Choice	8
Portfolio Presentation	8
Portfolio Assessment	9

Section 2: Getting Credits Toward Graduation 9

Course Credits	9
Other Options	10
Equivalency	10
External Credentials	10
Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses	11
Course Challenge	11
Independent Directed Studies	12
Post-Secondary Courses	12
New Opportunities for Career Programs	13

Section 3: Putting it All Together. 14

Planning Your Future with Focus Areas	14
Planning for Life Beyond Grade 12	16
Oops!	17

Section 4: Exams, Awards and Scholarships 17

Graduation Program Exams	17
Financing Your Future	18
Passport to Education	19
Provincial Scholarships	19
District Scholarships	19
Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships	20
Other Awards	20

Helpful Web Sites 21

A Few Last Words 22

Welcome to the 2004 Graduation Program!

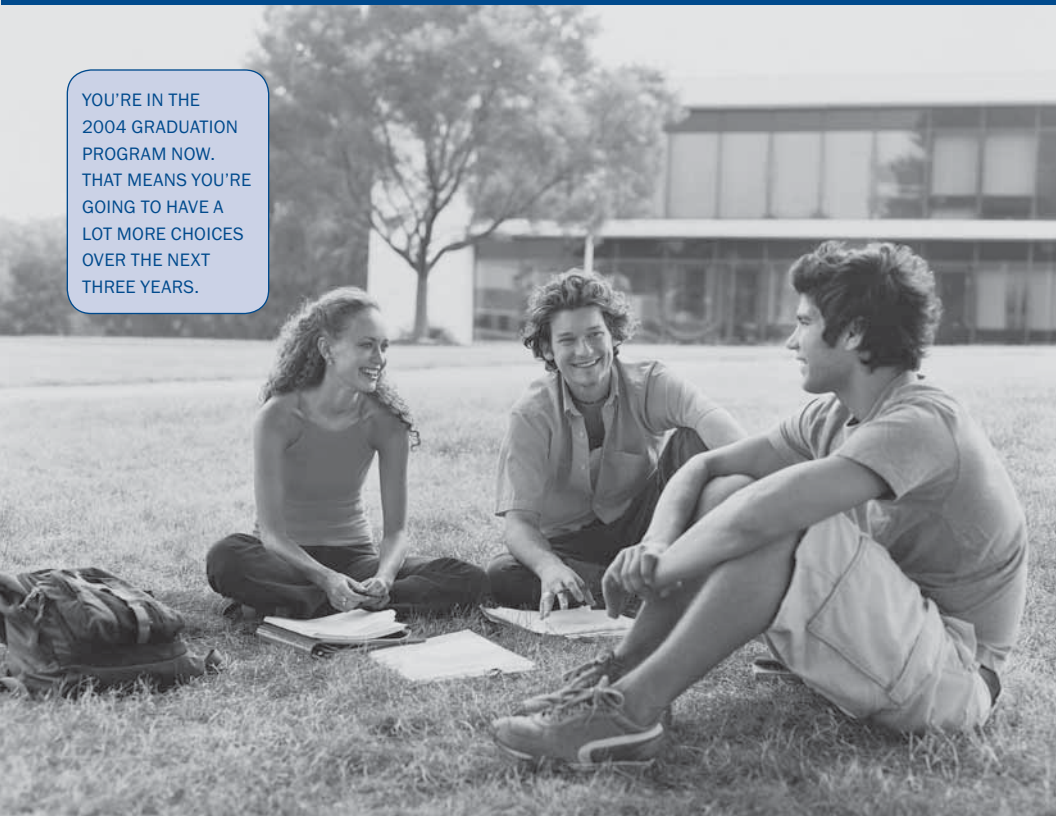
You're about to start a new chapter in your education – and that means you have a real chance to shape your future. For one thing, you're going to have a lot more choices over the next three years. You'll get to choose the subjects that interest you. You'll have some choice about where and how you learn. And, best of all, you'll have a chance to make the most of your own individual potential.

The Graduation Program is a chance for you to discover what you want to do in the future. This guide helps you get started. It explains what's required and where you have choices. It also covers topics like scholarships and funding, and offers links to web sites with helpful information. It's your guide to three of the most important years of your education – not just as a student, but as a unique person.

Use these years to learn, discover, grow, explore and try new things. And choose the path that best reflects your interests and your dreams.

Your future starts here. Only you can make it great!

YOU'RE IN THE
2004 GRADUATION
PROGRAM NOW.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE A
LOT MORE CHOICES
OVER THE NEXT
THREE YEARS.



1 | What You Need to Graduate

At a Glance

Starting in September 2004, you'll have a lot more choice about what you learn. But every student in the Graduation Program has to pass certain basic courses, too, like English, math and science. The table below gives an overview of what you'll need to graduate:

> 48 credits from required courses

> 28 credits from elective courses

> 4 credits
from your
Graduation
Portfolio

Preparing now will help ensure you get the credits you need to achieve your goals. The graduation requirements will be introduced in Planning 10. For more help, talk to your school counsellor.

FOR MORE ON
REQUIRED COURSES,
SEE PAGE 3. FOR
MORE ON ELECTIVE
COURSES, SEE PAGE
5. FOR MORE ON
THE GRADUATION
PORTFOLIO, SEE
PAGE 6.

REQUIRED COURSES	
SUBJECT AREA	Minimum Credits
English 10	4
a Language Arts 11	4
a Language Arts 12	4
Social Studies 10	4
Social Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies or Civic Studies 11	4
Science 10	4
a Science 11 or 12	4
a Mathematics 10	4
a Mathematics 11 or 12	4
Physical Education 10	4
Planning 10	4
a Fine Arts and/or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12	4
Total	48 credits
ELECTIVE COURSES	
Students must earn at least 28 elective credits for Grade 10-12 courses.	28 credits
GRADUATION PORTFOLIO	
Students must earn 4 credits for Graduation Portfolio.	4 credits
OVERALL TOTAL	80 credits
Of the 80 credits for graduation, at least 16 must be at the Grade 12 level, including a Grade 12 Language Arts course. Others may be required or elective courses.	

Required Courses

The following section describes the courses required for graduation. You have some choice within these requirements. For example, there are three different types of math as well as different science and language arts options. Check which options are available at your school and which ones you need for entry to a post-secondary institution. Certain courses are necessary for college or university entrance.

CHOICE IS AN
IMPORTANT PART OF
THE GRADUATION
PROGRAM. YOU'LL
HAVE LOTS OF
OPTIONS, EVEN IN
REQUIRED COURSES.

Planning 10

This course will help you build the skills you need to make smart choices about your future. The skills you develop in Planning 10 will help you well beyond graduation, as you move forward with your adult life. You'll do research, set goals and start to make informed decisions about: health topics and issues, education and career options, and ways to finance those options.

In Planning 10, you'll learn more about the Graduation Program. You will also start collecting evidence of your accomplishments for your Graduation Portfolio. (For more on portfolios, see pages 6-8).

Language Arts 10, 11, 12

These courses are about communication. You succeed in school and life by reading and writing effectively. Gathering, organizing and presenting information effectively are also important communication skills.

Language Arts 10 is required for graduation. At the Grade 11 level, some common choices are: English 11, Français Langue Première 11 or Communications 11. In Grade 12, you can choose from English 12, Français Langue Première 12, Technical and Professional Communications 12, Communications 12, and others that might be offered at your school. (You can take more than one; the list above refers to the minimum requirements.)



Mathematics 10, and 11 or 12

Math is about more than numbers. It's also about reasoning, solving problems and using logic. To graduate, you must complete a Grade 10 math course plus a second math course at the grade 11 or 12 level. You might need further math courses if you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12.

Depending on the school you attend, there could be many math options available to you. Three common options for math courses in grades 10-12 are:

Essentials of Mathematics: This will prepare you to use math at work and in your everyday life. It will also prepare you for some post-secondary training, like applied and trades programs.

Applications of Mathematics: This will help you use math in daily life and in a variety of careers. It will prepare you for post-secondary programs that do not require calculus.

Principles of Mathematics: This is a more theoretical course and you will probably need it for university entrance. It will prepare you for the formal study of calculus in higher grades.

Fine Arts and Applied Skills 10, 11, or 12

These courses will help you understand and appreciate applied learning and creative works. Both areas emphasize hands-on learning.

- > Fine arts include dance, drama, music and visual arts courses.
- > Applied skills include business education, home economics, information technology and technology education.

CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL TO SEE WHICH OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN REQUIRED COURSES.

To graduate, you need four credits in either fine arts, applied skills or a combination of both.

Social Studies 10 and 11 or 12

These courses help you understand the world and your place in it. You'll learn about events, issues and themes from both the past and present. You will also develop skills that help you become a responsible citizen.

To graduate, you must complete Social Studies 10. You must also pass either Social Studies 11, Civic Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12.

Science 10 and 11 or 12

These courses help you understand the natural world. You'll develop skills related to observation, measurement, problem-solving and critical thinking.

To graduate, you must complete Science 10. You must also complete a course at the grade 11 or 12 level. Some options are agriculture, applications of physics, biology, chemistry, earth science, forests, geology, physics, and science and technology. Check with your school to see what options are available.

Physical Education 10

This course will help you maintain an active, healthy lifestyle.

To graduate, you must complete Physical Education 10. You must also meet the physical activity standard for your Graduation Portfolio during grade 11 or 12. (For more on portfolios, see pages 6-8.)

Elective Courses

To graduate, you'll need 28 credits from elective courses numbered 10, 11 or 12. That's in addition to the credits you need from required courses and your Graduation Portfolio. When you take two required courses in the same subject area, one will count as an elective.

Electives are courses you can choose for yourself, based on your interests, abilities and future plans – and what's available in your school or district. If you're planning to continue school beyond Grade 12, remember that you may need certain courses to enter the program you want. (You'll have a chance to learn more about post-secondary entry requirements in Planning 10.)

THINK ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE WHEN
YOU CHOOSE YOUR
ELECTIVES. YOU
MAY NEED CERTAIN
COURSES TO GET
WHERE YOU WANT
TO GO.

To find out what elective courses are available in your school or district, talk to your school counsellor. Check out the “Getting Credits” section of this booklet, too, to learn about other ways of earning graduation credits.

Graduation Portfolio – What You Need to Know

Four of the 80 credits you need for graduation will come from your Graduation Portfolio. It's a collection of evidence (electronic or paper-based) that proves you've developed more than just academic skills. This is important because, in today's world, you need all kinds of skills to succeed.

You'll start work on your portfolio this year and continue through Grade 12. Each portfolio will be unique, but all will have these common elements:

- > Portfolio Core
- > Portfolio Choice
- > Portfolio Presentation

YOU'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT GRADUATION PORTFOLIOS IN PLANNING 10.

Portfolio Core

Thirty per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from Portfolio Core. To graduate, you must complete all of the following six requirements. In each case, the heading refers to an organizer. Underneath is a brief description of what you'll have to do:

- > Arts & Design
Respond to an art, performance, or design work
- > Community Involvement & Responsibility
Participate cooperatively and respectfully in a service activity
- > Education and Career Planning
Complete a graduation transition plan

THE GRADUATION PORTFOLIO IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS – IN WHATEVER WAYS YOU CHOOSE.



- > **Employability Skills**
Complete 30 hours of work or volunteer experience
 - > **Information Technology**
Use information technology skills
 - > **Personal Health**
Complete 80 hours of moderate to intense physical activity
- You'll learn more about meeting these requirements during Planning 10.

Portfolio Choice

Fifty per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from Portfolio Choice. This is your chance to expand on what you did in Portfolio Core. You'll choose one or more of the six organizers listed above (in Portfolio Core). Then you'll create or collect evidence to meet criteria related to those organizers.

For more information, go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/ and click on Portfolio Choice.

Portfolio Presentation

Twenty per cent of your Graduation Portfolio mark comes from a final presentation. This is your chance to highlight what you've accomplished. Your presentation could take a variety of forms, including:

- > an interview
- > an event (like a science fair)
- > an electronic or multimedia presentation
- > a performance

- > a community event
- > a conversation with a teacher
- > a panel led by a teacher

You will most likely make your presentation in April or May of your Grade 12 school year. Decisions about the timing and format are made by individual schools.

Portfolio Assessment

Teachers will assess your portfolio throughout grades 10-12. Like any other course, you need 50 per cent to pass. You can meet most portfolio standards (except for the presentation, physical activity requirements and graduation transition plan) at any time during the Graduation Program. The Grade 12 Passport Award of \$500 will be based solely on your Graduation Portfolio.

For more on Graduation Portfolios, go to:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio

2 | Getting Credits Toward Graduation

Course Credits

You'll probably earn most of your credits toward graduation the usual way – by successfully completing courses. But there are other ways of earning credits, and some of these might work for you.

Read through the list of options below and, if you want more information, talk to your school counsellor or go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm

Other Options

Equivalency (documented prior learning)



Have you completed a course outside a B.C. school? Did you earn a certificate that shows substantive learning outside of school? If so, you might qualify for credit for an equivalent course in the B.C. school system. If you can document your learning (with a report card or transcript, for example) you can ask for an equivalency review. The review will determine whether you're entitled to credits and, if so, how many.

If you went to a school where the classes were taught in a language other than English, you might qualify for credits for equivalent B.C. language courses.

For more on equivalency, talk to your school counsellor or go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/courseinfo/

External Credentials

If you have achieved a high level of performance in areas outside school, you might earn credits for certain extra-curricular or learning activities. A few examples include: computer certification courses, Cadets, some driver education courses, involvement in provincial or national sports teams, and some music and dance courses. You might earn

credit for these types of activities if you're active in them now or were in the past.

If you went to a school where the classes were taught in a language other than English, you might qualify for credits for other language learning.

THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO EARN CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION.

Some external credentials count as “required course” credits while others count for elective credits. For more information go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/courseinfo/

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

These are for students whose future plans include university. There are lots of different options, and choices vary from school to school.

Course Challenge

Some students have important skills or learning that can't be verified. In other words, they have no paper (certificate, transcript, etc.) that verifies they took a course or met certain requirements. If you're in that position, you may be able to earn credits by challenging a course.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT A GOOD WAY TO LEARN SOMETHING IS TO TEACH IT TO SOMEONE ELSE?

Challenge is a process that assesses your knowledge and skills in certain areas. The goal is to determine whether you've met the learning outcomes for a similar course in your school district. If you have, you might get credit for the course without having to take it.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT STANDING UP WHILE YOU STUDY HELPS YOUR BRAIN GET MORE OXYGEN AND REMEMBER MORE INFORMATION?

Each school district has its own challenge process. There is no fee for challenging courses taught in your school district.

However, if you wish to challenge a course that is not taught in your district, you might have to pay a fee.

IDS GIVES YOU A
CHANCE TO DEVELOP
YOUR VERY OWN
COURSE OF STUDY.

Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

If you have a particular interest in a specific subject area, you might want to think about Independent Directed Studies. This approach allows you to shape and follow your own course or courses, with a teacher's approval and supervision. IDS course credits count as electives.

To qualify for IDS, you need the approval of the school principal to expand on one or more learning outcomes from any Ministry or Board/ Authority Authorized course. (Your counsellor can help explain this.) Then you'll need to find a teacher to supervise your studies before you initiate your own course. You'll work independently. The teacher will support you and assess your performance.

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT STUDYING OUT
LOUD CAN HELP
YOU REMEMBER
UP TO FOUR TIMES
BETTER?

Post-Secondary Courses

Most courses you complete at a B.C. post-secondary institution count toward graduation. The transcript is proof of your achievements. You will need to provide this proof to your school.

In most cases, you can earn dual credits. That means you get credits toward your graduation and also toward a post-secondary credential. To get dual credits, you have to take either:

- a post-secondary course from an institution in the British Columbia Transfer System (for a list of institutions, go to www.bccat.bc.ca) or

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT YOUR BRAIN
REMEMBERS THE
FIRST AND LAST
THINGS YOU LEARN
BEST?

- > a post-secondary course offered in French in conjunction with Educacentre (www.educacentre.com).

The above post-secondary courses count as elective credits at the Grade 12 level.

New Opportunities for Career Programs

Many schools offer specialized programs that help you explore careers or gain work experience. Some of these programs also help you develop workplace skills or credentials. Check to see if your school offers any of the following:

Secondary School Apprenticeship, Career Technical Centres and Industry Training Programs

These programs let you train for work while you're in secondary school, earn graduation credits, and possibly earn some money, too.

Career Preparation Programs

These help prepare you for the workplace in general, or for further education and training. The programs include in-school courses and work experience placements arranged by your school. Some career preparation programs also provide entry-level skills for specific job opportunities.

Cooperative Education Programs

These programs give you a chance to get hands-on experience in different careers. They combine career exploration and skill enhancement with work experience.

SOME CAREER PROGRAMS INCLUDE WAGES, SO YOU CAN EARN WHILE YOU LEARN.

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT A RECORD 79 PER CENT OF STUDENTS COMPETED HIGH SCHOOL IN 2002-03?

3 | Putting it All Together

Planning Your Future With Focus Areas

FOCUS AREAS
ARE HELPFUL FOR
PLANNING YOUR
DESTINATION AFTER
GRADE 12.

Focus Areas are a key component of the 2004 Graduation Program. They help you learn about the broad range of education and career choices. They also help you choose an area of interest – or several – to pursue during the Graduation Program, and select courses for grades 11 and 12 in a way that supports your future goals.

Based on your own interests and aptitudes, you will concentrate your studies in one or more of the following Focus Areas:

- > Business and Applied Business
- > Fine Arts, Design and Media
- > Fitness and Recreation
- > Health and Human Services
- > Liberal Arts and Humanities
- > Science and Applied Science
- > Tourism, Hospitality and Foods
- > Trades and Technology

You can use Focus Areas to research post-secondary programs at: www.educationplanner.bc.ca. Focus Areas are helpful planning tools no matter what your destination after Grade 12.

As you learn more about Focus Areas during Planning 10, you'll choose one or more to focus on during grades 11 and 12.

Focus Areas and the Graduation Portfolio

Focus Areas will help you plan and complete your Graduation Portfolio. For example, the work you do to choose a Focus Area (or areas) will help you meet a Portfolio Choice requirement for Education and Career Planning.

For more on Focus Areas, including lists of sample courses, future options and related skills and interests, check out the Program Guide for Focus Areas. Go to: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/focus.htm and click on “Focus Area Descriptors.”



Planning for Life Beyond Grade 12

Graduating from secondary school is one important step toward a successful career and future. Grade 12 completion is the minimum requirement for most jobs in today's market. If you also have post-secondary education or training, chances are you'll have more job choices.



B.C. has a wide range of post-secondary options. You'll learn more about these in Planning 10. To get you started, here's a list of different types of institutions:



> **Institutes** are organized according to career, vocational and technical specialties, covering a variety of occupations. They may offer credentials from a certificate to a full degree.



> **Colleges** provide courses and programs leading to certificates, diplomas and associate degrees in vocational, career, technology, trades and academic areas. Most B.C. colleges also offer university transfer programs.

> **University-Colleges** offer degree programs in specialized subject areas, as well as many of the same certificate and diploma programs as colleges.

> **Universities** provide undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Some B.C. universities also offer specialized certificates and diplomas in selected professional fields.

For more information on B.C. post-secondary institutions, go to: www.educationplanner.bc.ca

Oops!

Forgot a course? Need to improve a mark before you apply for post-secondary? You can upgrade your secondary school diploma. Almost all school districts have continuing education centres that provide services to both secondary school graduates and non-graduates. For a fee, graduates over 19 years of age can upgrade their courses. These centres also help adult non-graduates to finish their schooling. For more information, contact your local school district.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ON B.C. POST-
SECONDARY
INSTITUTIONS,
GO TO WWW.
EDUCATIONPLANNER.
BC.CA

4 | Exams, Awards and Scholarships

Graduation Program Exams

As a student on the 2004 Graduation Program, you are required to write at least five exams. Exams are mandatory for every course in the following subject areas:

- > Grade 10 Language Arts
- > Grade 10 Science
- > Grade 10 Mathematics (based on the course you choose)
- > Social Studies 11 or 12 (based on the course you choose)
- > Grade 12 Language Arts (based on the course you choose)

MOST GRADE
12 EXAMS ARE
OPTIONAL, BUT YOU
MAY NEED TO WRITE
THEM TO REACH
YOUR GOALS.

These exams are mandatory. All other Grade 12 exams are optional. In other words, you can take a Grade 12 course that has an optional graduation program exam, and choose not to take the exam. In that case, 100 per cent of your final mark will come from your classroom work. If you choose to write an optional Grade 12 exam, it will count for 40 per cent of your final mark. Your classroom work will count for 60 per cent.

Please note that some post-secondary institutions require Grade 12 exam scores for entrance. Writing Grade 12 exams also means you could qualify to win provincial scholarships. Consider these facts carefully as you plan your courses for the next three years.

For more on Graduation Program exams go to: [**www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams**](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams)

For policies on calculators, cheating and other exam issues go to: [**www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/**](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/)

For more on scholarships and awards, go to: [**www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/**](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/) or check out the section of this booklet titled “Financing Your Future.”

Financing Your Future

It's never too early to think about how you'll pay for your future education. If you plan to continue school beyond Grade 12, you can start earning money from awards and scholarships even before you graduate. See [**www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/**](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/)

YOU'LL LEARN MORE
ABOUT FINANCING
YOUR FUTURE IN
PLANNING 10.



Passport to Education

To offset the cost of future tuition fees, grade 10 and 11 students can earn \$250 each school year based on academic and non-academic achievements. Check with your school for specific requirements. Starting in the 2006/07 school year, you can earn a \$500 passport stamp for your Graduation Portfolio achievements.

Provincial Scholarships

Students who write provincial exams in Grade 12 might qualify to win scholarships worth \$1,000 or \$2,500. The awards are based on academic achievement. The money can only be used for tuition at designated post-secondary institutions.

District Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating students who excel in:

- > fine arts (including courses like visual arts, dance, drama or music) or
- > applied skills (including courses like business education, technology education and home economics).

Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships

These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating Secondary School Apprentices who:

- > complete 480 hours of work-based training while in secondary school
- > maintain a C+ average in their Grade 12 courses
- > continue their apprenticeship for at least six months after graduation

FOR A LIST OF
AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE IN B.C.,
GO TO **WWW.
BCAWARDSONLINE.
SD61.BC.CA/**

Other Awards

Thousands of other scholarships and awards are available to graduating students. For a complete list (searchable by keywords, areas of interest or application deadlines), go to: **www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/**

Helpful Web Sites

Throughout this booklet, you're encouraged to check different web sites for more information. Here's a quick summary that you can refer to as you plan your future.

For information on the Graduation Program

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm

For details about the Graduation Portfolio

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/focus.htm

For information on B.C. Ministry of Education policies (including things like course challenge)

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/

For information on earning credits through external credentials

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/courseinfo/

To learn more about career planning and post-secondary options

www.educationplanner.bc.ca

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers

www.bccat.bc.ca

DURING THE
GRADUATION
PROGRAM, YOU HAVE
THE CHANCE TO
SHAPE YOUR OWN
FUTURE.

A Few Last Words

As you can tell from reading this booklet, Grade 10 is an exciting new experience for you as a student. It's a lot of information all at once, but it will make more sense as you move through the year, and especially as you work through Planning 10.

The Graduation Program encourages you to take more responsibility for your learning decisions. You'll plan and make choices about your future. You'll have a chance to develop your potential. Use this booklet as a reference throughout your graduation years.

The graduation years are an exciting time. Now is the time to make the most of your life, your choices, your graduation program and your dreams.



NOTES _____

NOTES

Our commitment to education:

Education is the most important investment we can make in our children's lives. The Province of B.C. is committed to building a top-notch system that puts students first.

For more information, visit [AchieveBC.ca](https://www.achievebc.ca)

